



PATENT
2308/100

3726

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ian James Whitworth
Serial No : 09/647,087 based on PCT/GB99/00975
Cnfrm No : Unknown
Filed : March 29, 1999
For : APPARATUS FOR THE PRODUCTION
OF POCKETED COIL SPRINGS

Examiner:
P.W. Echols

Art Unit:
3726

TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

APR 29 2002

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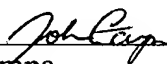
Enclosed herewith are the following items:

- 1) Response to Restriction Requirement; and
- 2) Postcard.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 14-1138 for additional fees that may be incurred.

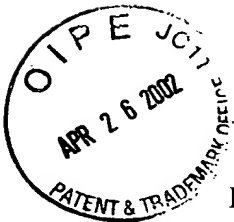
Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 23, 2002


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PATENT
2308/100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#7/Election

Applicant : Ian James Whitworth)
Serial No : 09/647,087 based on PCT/GB99/00975)
Cnfrm No : Unknown)
Filed : March 29, 1999)
For : APPARATUS FOR THE PRODUCTION)
OF POCKETED COIL SPRINGS)

Examiner:
P.W. Echols

Art Unit:
3706

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3700 MAIL ROOM

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
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Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 27, 2002, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the invention of Group I, drawn to an apparatus for the production of pocketed coil springs as set forth in claims 1-20, with traverse for the following reasons.

The Office asserts that restriction is proper between Group I and Group II, which includes claims 21-24, because Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept since they lack the same or corresponding special technical features as set forth under PCT Rule § 13. Further, the Office identifies the special technical features of a "programmable control means operably linked to said coiling elements ..." in Group I, claim 1, and "separating said coil from said wire ..." in Group II, claim 21. Under PCT Rule § 13, unity of invention is present where "there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature." Applicants submit that Group I, claim 1 has a special technical feature of "an encapsulation section in which the coil is inserted between juxtaposed sheets of material" that corresponds to the feature of "inserting said coil between juxtaposed sheets of material" in Group II, claim 21. As such, the above-identified special technical features clearly establish a "technical

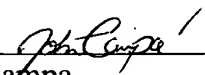
relationship” between Groups I and II. Accordingly, the restriction at least between Groups I and II is improper, and therefore should be withdrawn for at least this reason alone.

Additionally, M.P.E.P. § 1893.03(d) states “[a]n apparatus ... is specifically designed for carrying out the process when the apparatus ... is suitable for carrying out the process with the technical relationship being present between the claimed apparatus ... and the claimed process ...” As identified above, the technical relationship between Groups I and II includes the coil being inserted between the juxtaposed sheets of material. As such, Applicants submit that the invention set forth in Group I of an “[a]pparatus for the production of pocketed coil springs” is suitable for carrying out a “method of producing pocketed coil springs” as set forth in Group II. Section 1893.03(d) further provides that “[t]he expression specifically designed does not imply that the apparatus ... could not be used for carrying out another process, nor does it imply that the process could not be carried out using an alternative apparatus ...” Accordingly, Applicants submit that examining Groups I and II together in one application is proper and places no undo burden upon the Office. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the Restriction Requirement with respect to Group I and Group II for this additional reason.

Examination of claims 1-24 is next in order and such action is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 23, 2002


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